



BILLING

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**[Docket No.: ED-2019-ICCD-0161]**

**Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; EZ-Audit: Electronic Submission of Financial Statements and Compliance Audits**

**AGENCY:** Federal Student Aid (FSA), Department of Education (ED).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ED is proposing a revision of an existing information collection.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before **[INSERT THE 60TH DAY AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE]**.

**ADDRESSES:** To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2019-ICCD-0161.

Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) site is not available to the public for any reason, ED will temporarily accept comments at [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov). Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. *Please note that comments submitted by fax or e-mail and those submitted after the comment period will not be accepted.* Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be addressed to the Director of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, LBJ, Room 6W-208D, Washington, DC 20202-4537.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Beth Grebeldinger, 202-377-4018.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Department of Education (ED), in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information

collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. ED is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this

*Title of Collection:* EZ-Audit: Electronic Submission of Financial Statements and Compliance Audits

*OMB Control Number:* 1845-0072

*Type of Review:* A revision of an existing information collection

*Respondents / Affected Public:* Private Sector, State, Local, and Tribal Governments; Individuals or Households

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses:* 6,632

*Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours:* 6,016

*Abstract:* eZ-Audit is a web-based process designed to facilitate the submission of compliance and financial statement audits, expedite the review of those audits by the Department, and provide more timely and useful information to public, non-profit and proprietary institutions regarding the Department's review. eZ-Audit establishes a uniform process under which all institutions submit directly to the Department any audit required under the Title IV, HEA program regulations. The revisions to this collection is a result of enhancements made to the current system to collect the compliance audits/financial statements in the appropriate format (e.g. revised question text and required uploads) from the foreign institutions that are required to submit audits in accordance to the Department's regulations and to allow electronic submission of compliance audits/financial statements from the entities identified above. Revisions to financial statements information are to meet the new borrower defense regulations.

Dated: December 19, 2019.

**Kate Mullan,**

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*Office of Chief Data Officer.*

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